Title: Need to bring down prices of insulin at an affordable range.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Sir, in the last eight years, the price of the one of the life saving drug -- insulin has increased six-fold leaving millions of diabetic patients , especially the underprivileged ones in dire straits. The multinational companies are ignoring their responsibility towards society, health, human rights and justice. I urge upon the Government to bring down the price of the bulk drug particularly insulin to help poor patients. In India, there are about 2.5 million young people suffering from diabetes, out of which half are poor. Insulin is now beyond their pockets. The Government must attend to public health. The Supreme Court has said that such drugs should be manufactured to satisfy every demand.

In 1991, the commonest form of insulin, Bovine, was available at a fairly affordable price of Rs. 12/- for a 400 U vial. Now, that Bovine Insulin is priced at Rs. 76/- per vail. The multinational companies have stopped operation in India and the insulin is imported solely for profit motives.

I request the Union Government to take immediate action to slash insulin prices at an affordable range so that 40 per cent of poor diabetic patients, who are unable to purchase this life saving drug, are able to survive with affordable insulin treatment.